



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: October 28, 1999
Release Number: 99-92

Contact: Patricia L. Young
Internet Address: www.sba.gov/news/

SBA's ONLINE WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER NOW AVAILABLE IN RUSSIAN

WASHINGTON – U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) chief Aída Alvarez announced today that the SBA's popular Online Women's Business Center (www.onlinewbc.org) is now available in Russian.

The SBA's Online Women's Business Center is a free, interactive, full-service training site on the Internet that offers virtually everything a woman needs to start or build a successful business. The site provides new and established women entrepreneurs with a full business-training curriculum, including information on business principles and practices, management techniques, market research, and technology training, as well as networking, industry news, and SBA programs and services. The translation of the site into Russian is the result of a cooperative effort between the SBA and the U.S. Department of State. SBA's Online Women's Business Center is also available in Spanish.

"This is *the* 21st Century high-tech tool to get information and find experts and peers who will help you navigate your way to economic independence through entrepreneurship," said SBA Administrator Alvarez. **"In 1991, few countries had access to the Internet. Today some 90 million people, in every country around the world have access.**

"A year ago, when we launched the Online Women's Business Center in Spanish, we knew it was just the first step in making the site an international meeting place for women entrepreneurs," she added. **"Each translation will enable the SBA to reach more women, help them build successful businesses, raise their standards of living, and improve their communities.**

Vice President Al Gore and Administrator Alvarez officially opened the SBA's Online Women's Business Center in January 1998. The site was developed by the North Texas Women's Business Development Center and is sponsored by IBM, The Associates, JCPenney, GTE and Avon. The SBA's Online Women's Business Center uses the business expertise and best practices of nearly 80 community-based SBA women's business centers in 47 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The site's online counseling services are provided by the cyber-chapter of the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE).

For more information on SBA's Online Women's Business Center, the Women's Business Center Program or other SBA programs, visit the agency's home page at www.sba.gov, the Office of Women's Business Ownership home page at www.sba.gov/womeninbusiness, or the Online Women's Business Center at www.onlinewbc.org. You may also call the **SBA Answer Desk** at **1-800-U-ASK-SBA**.